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TELCON
Stewart Alsop/Sec. Kissinger
Monday, Oct. 8, 1973
11:20 a.m.

RELEASED IN FULL

K: I know you have already talked to Sisco but I wanted you to have a word from me too about the situation. What we have tried -- I want to give you a sense of our strategy. First we tried to prevent the outbreak and when that failed, we tried to get it ended but the situation was that the Arabs did not want a Security Council meeting and therefore no other member of the SC wanted to have one. We canvassed all day Saturday both for a meeting and a resolution that might pass. Of course, we were in the closest touch with the Israelis. When it became apparent that all would happen in a Security Council meeting ~~would~~ be a shouting match and inconclusive, we continued this strategy. We tried to keep the Russians from doing anything rash by staying in touch. I think it is being worked out now. We moved it unilaterally to the SC last night. I think we will crystallize this thing over the next 24-48 hours.

A: Fine. I told Joe that in 1956 Dulles stopped them you know and Lescoff (sp), the field leaders, said they took a swim in the canal and we stopped them. In 1967 I was with Alazar (sp). We were in a village close to Damascus. He now runs the whole show. On the ground he is the Commander in Chief. I said you made a mistake. He said you mean going to Damascus. I said yes. He said you know who pulled us off. You did. They have lost their greatest asset of 1967 and I listened to all of the plans. With their air superiority I believe they will get control. And that we should not try to stop them.

K: We have maneuvered in such away that they have not had too much interference.

A: As the Shah once said to me, "I am sympathetic with the Arabs. They can lose a hundred battles but the Israelis cannot lose one."

K: We have maintained a position and I think the Israelis are satisfied with what we are doing and yet we have not broken off with the Arabs and we are going to try to dance that line for awhile.

A: Wish you luck. Anyway that I can be of service, let me know.

K: Thank you. You have been a good friend and I will keep you informed.

END

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